like sugar, edible oils have been rising steadily; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) what were the comparative index of the prices of essential commodities during October, 1989, November, 1989 and January, 1990 with the corresponding months of the previous year;

(c) whether there is a shortage of essential commodities in the country; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to bring down the prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) There has been a mixed trend in the behaviour of the prices of the essential commodities. The wholesale price indices of rice, wheat, pulses like grams, *arhar*, *moong*, *masoor*, vegetables like potatoes and onions; sugar, *gur*, milk and fish have declined during three months ending January, 1990 while there has been some increase in the prices of *Bajra*, mutton, salt, mustard oil, coconut oil controlled cloth and laundry soap. However, the prices of soft coke and kerosene remained steady. The uptrend in the prices may be attributed to the shortfall in production and the lean season for some of the items during this part of the year. A statement showing wholesale price indices of selected esential commodities in October, 1989, November, 1989 and January, 1990 and in the corresponding months in the previous year is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLIII, Annexure No. 20]

(c) and (d) There has been by and large no shortage of foodgrains and most of the other essential commodities during the last three months.

The Government has, however, been reviewing the prices and availability situation of essential commodities at the highest level. Appropriate measures both short-term and long-term are being taken. These include measures to increase production of essential commodities which are in short supply, strengthening the Public Distribution System and monitoring of prices and availability of essential commodities; strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities and other regulatory measures; regulation of export of essential commodities and if necessary, augmenting domestic supplies through imports to check abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities due to demand and supply gap.

Use of pesticides

527. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the State-wise, year-wise and pesticide-wise quantities sprayed in the country during the year 1987-88 and 1988-89;

(b) whether any health hazards arising from these spraying has been monitored and if so the details thereof; and

(c) whether the sprayers, farmers, and others including flora and fauna were found affected during these operations?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Due to the multiplicity or formulations of 123 registered pesticides, the precise quantum of specific pesticides sprayed on crops is not available. However, the State-wise consumption of pesticides during 1987-88

and 1988-89 as reported by the States is given in the statement enclosed (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Periodic monitoring of data on accidents due to pesticide use is undertaken by the Government.

The information furnished by the States on poisoning due to use of pesticides for the years 1987-88 and 1988-89 is as under: —

Sl. No.	State	1987-88		1988-89	
		No. of deaths	No. of cases	No. of deaths	No. of cases
1	Punjab	126	126	..	..
2	Haryana	3 (animals)	3 (animals)	6	6
3	Kerala	Nil	40	..	..
4	Tamil Nadu	4 (animals)	54 (animals)	..	..
5	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	16	..	..
6	Orissa	2	2	Nil	2

The above cases occurred due to misuse or abuse of pesticides and due to non-observance of recommended practices.

Statement

ANNEXURE

Consumption of pesticides in various States/UTs during 1987-88 *and* 1988-89

M.T. (Technical grade)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Consumption	
		1987-88	1988-89
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	8,860	9,910
2	Arunachal Pradesh	25	30
3	Assam	531	575
4	Bihar	3,000	1,700
5	Gujarat	2,080	5,500
6	Goa	11	22
7	Haryana	3,700	4,500

1	2	3	4
8	Himachal Pradesh	545	116
9	Jammu & Kashmir	85·40	110·00
10	Karnataka	4,500	8,900
11	Kerala	1,059	1,100
12	Madhya Pradesh	3,000	4,500
13	Maharashtra	6,090	6,020
14	Manipur	38	50
15	Meghalaya	44	45
16	Mizoram.	10	15·00
17	Nagaland	13	12·00
18	Orissa	1,700	1,800
19	Punjab	4,860	5,770
20	Rajasthan	2,970	2,758
21	Sikkim	20	20
22	Tamil Nadu	11,600	12,500
23	Tripura	138	164
24	Uttar Pradesh	6,920	8,480
25	West Bengal	4,900	5,000
26	Andaman & Nicobar	3.50	—
27	Chandigarh	3.00	—
28	Delhi	49.50	60.00
29	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4	4
30	Daman & Diu	0.67	—
31	Pondicherry	133.70	135.00
32	Lakshadweep	0.70	0.70
	TOTAL	66,894.47	75,417.70

Affairs of CAPART

528. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of dissatisfaction amongst dedicated Voluntary Agencies about the working of the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology ;

(b) whether Government have received any representation in this respect and if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon.

(c) whether Government are aware that all the funds of the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology were diverted to other projects on partisan basis at the expense of non-political agencies working to improve quality of life ; and

(d) Whether Government would ensure that the top management of Council for Advancement of